



Novena 2021

Saint Cándida María de Jesús
Foundress of the Hijas de Jesús

The family of Mother Candida is called to continue living this Jubilee year that we are celebrating for the 150 years of the foundation of the Institute and is invited to pray together in this novena, for her feast on August 9, 2021.

Since the opening of the 18th GC, the question has been vibrating whether *"this may not be the time to give a new face to our being as Hijas de Jesús and offer it with generosity to the Father, to the Church and to our brothers and sisters"* and that the General Congregation, in its process of discernment, made its own by responding with the Determination **"To follow Jesus Christ closely, who chose poverty for himself"** and, affirming that this anniversary calls us to offer a new face of the charism (18th GC, 1).

For these days of special prayer, we were asking ourselves: What could we pray in this novena to help us reaffirm the desire to offer that new face of the charism? What prayer would please our Holy Foundress? And among the diversity of ways of doing it that came to us... we offer this proposal to pray, taking some aspects that speak to us of the possibilities of continuing to grow in evangelical quality.

Perhaps today, after 150 years of history, Mother Candida is asking us if our way of being and proceeding in ordinary daily life is similar to the way of the poor Jesus, according to the charismatic grace that we have received in her. May we already enjoy this communion with her!

These are nine days as a proposal adaptable to each reality and feeling of each group and / or community, whether it be done in person or online. A setting of the place where the novena will be made and in which a painting or image of M. Candida is placed, a place that will be enriched throughout the days with other symbols, is suggested. The prayer for the jubilee year or the short ones that are proposed can be said.

What we really want is:



TO LOOK AT OURSELVES WITH MOTHER CANDIDA, IN JESUS' WAY,
that is, to look at ourselves as we are each day,
and prepare the gift that we want to offer her on her day.

And... a gift for our Saint is a gift for the whole FAMILY.
Let us ask for the grace to turn our hearts toward God, in words and deeds.

Let's go with courage, sisters and brothers:
"To name what today can take away evangelical vitality from us,
to pray,
to renew,
to discern,
to thank,
to celebrate!!!

Consolação de Matos, FI y Teresa Ramírez, FI



1st day: Let us live in constant familiarity with God



Setting - Prepare a corner for Mother, which will be enriched as the days go by.

❖ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Grace to ask for - That all our intentions and actions may be ordered, "to gestate the new face of the charism and offer it generously to the Father, the Church and our brothers and sisters."

Introduction

Growth in the Christian path is closely related to *familiarity with the God* revealed in Jesus. And only by constantly being intimate with Him, as a friend does with another friend, can we learn His way in order to collaborate in His mission, from the charism that we have received. In St. Cándida this familiarity is so ingrained that God comes out of her mouth in all circumstances like a person living in the same house. She calls him Father and knows his goodness, his mercy... This familiarity of Christians with the Lord is not only personal, although yes, it is intimate and personal, but it is also so *in community*. (Letters 80; 71; 4; 229; 445;...)

Song 🎵🎵 Para estar contigo or Dios es mi Padre or another song

(While singing, the participants place (prepared) phrases from Mother Candida about her familiarity with God)

Mother Candida's Dream

"... they have been called to a life of deep intimacy with God and they have to endeavor to seek and love Him in everything, thus progressing in the way they have started..." (CFI 167)
"What matters is that we be united to our God and that He may always reign in our heart, so that by being centered in God, temporal attachments, that make the soul lukewarm and take away fervor, will not creep in." (Letter 446).

Biblical text Ps 42: 2-3

"As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, the living God. When can I enter and see the face of God?"

A call today

Living in that familiarity with God and going forward on the path undertaken, like constantly lifting the heart and mind to God, is a growing attitude and response of love to God's Love, recognizing that He loved us first. Let us think about the times we walk looking at the ground. How many blows and how many missed opportunities to do something better than look at ourselves! (*Perlas escondidas* 1).



Due to the global conjuncture of the pandemic, Pope Francis tells us that “there is a risk of living a familiarity with God without community, without Bread, a familiarity without the Church, without the people... because it can become a familiarity - let's say - somewhat gnostic, a familiarity only for me, separated from the people of God. The apostles' familiarity with Jesus was always a communal familiarity, always at the table and a sign of the community”. We have to make our path of maturity in that familiarity. May we learn to do it, knowing that it is in Jesus in whom we share everything: life, faith, community, prayer, the sacraments, peace, feasting... and even death.

Meditation *(Pause in silence or with instrumental music)*

How am I living that familiarity with God?
What helps me to do it in everyday life?
What would M. Candida tell me today in my concrete life?

Sharing *(be it by way of petition, thanksgiving, praise, a resolution to live...)*

Song 🎵🎵 “Como un amigo a otro amigo” ... o “Fanguito de mi tronco...”

Final prayer

Through the intercession of St. Cándida María de Jesús, we ask you, Lord, that we may grow in familiarity with you, personally and as groups and / or communities. That under the action of the Holy Spirit we may allow ourselves to be reached by your Word, which is what transforms us and makes us like you. May our hearts open to your presence more and more. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



- Our Father... Hail Mary ... **St. Candida Ma. de Jesus, pray for us!**

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PREPARING THE GIFT

Compose a psalm prayer to Jesus, inspired by Mother Candida María de Jesús.



2nd day: With Mary, Star of our ways



Setting - the corner of St. Candida with yesterday's phrases....

❖ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Grace to ask for - That all our intentions and actions may be ordered "to gestate the new face of the charism and offer it generously to the Father, the Church and our brothers and sisters."

Introduction

The Charism given to Saint Cándida María is a gift for the good of the Church and of the world. Throughout these 150 years we have relied on "a living charism and a shared path". In this trajectory, Mary's protective presence has been very alive from the beginning until today. St. Cándida considered that it was the Virgin who was the true foundress of the congregation, who brings us close to her Son Jesus every day.

Song 🎵🎵 *Señora del Camino* ... or another

(While singing, place next to M. Cándida an image of the Virgin of the place)

Mother Candida's Dream

"... In conformity with this hope, the most important and adequate means (to preserve and carry the work forward), will be that of prayers and sacrifices... having as special intercessor the Blessed Virgin Mary, under whose aid and protection this Congregation devotes itself to the work of education for the service of God our Lord and of his Church". (CFI 318) "... they shall have recourse to all that may help them grow in intimacy with Him and in devotion to the Most Holy Virgin Mary..." (CFI 143) and "May the most pure Virgin shelter us beneath her mantle".



Biblical text *Jn 2, 1 ff.*

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." [And] Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

A call today

As Pope Francis says, Mary's presence in our lives is "as a sign of salvation and hope." For this reason, we entrust ourselves to Jesus' Mother, the sweet helper, because she knows "what we need and will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration may return after the moment of trial."



Juana Josefa was born on a day of the Virgin, she founded on the day of the Immaculate Conception and asks to celebrate the Marian festivals with the greatest possible devotion. It is because Mary helps us to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do whatever Jesus may tell us.

Song 🎵🎵 “Desconfío de mí y pongo toda la esperanza en ti, queridísima, Madre, Madre mía”
[“I distrust myself and I put all my hope in you, dearest Mother, my Mother.”]

Meditation *(Pause in silence or with instrumental music)*

What place does the Virgin Mary occupy in my personal life? In that of the community or group of people who share the charism? What would I like to say to Mary on the occasion of this jubilee year?

Sharing *(be it by way of petition, thanksgiving, praise, a resolution to live ...)*

(On a picture of the Virgin prepared for this day, write a wish for the Family of M. Candida and place it in the corner before the Virgin)



Final prayer

Through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, we ask you, Lord, to increase the evangelical vitality of the members of the Family of Mother Candida and to keep us in the firm certainty that She intercedes for us and invites us every day to do what You, Lord, tell us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Our Father ... Hail Mary ... **St. Candida Maria de Jesus, pray for us!**

Virgin Star of our ways, **pray for us!**

Song 🎵🎵 “Hagan lo que él les diga”

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PREPARING THE GIFT

Savor this message:

“... they will become a Congregation of union, of love, of true and fruitful apostolate, always having Mary Immaculate as the star of their ways.”



3rd day: Ordering life continuously



Setting - the corner of M. Candida, with the phrases and the image of the Virgin

❖ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Grace to ask for - That all our intentions and actions may be ordered, "to gestate the new face of the charism and offer it generously to the Father, the Church and our brothers and sisters."

Introduction

Our life must continually be ordered and accommodated to the end for which we have been created. Just as the house we inhabit becomes disorderly, becomes filled with dust and unnecessary things, something similar can happen to us with our inner house. There is a wise expression that says: "Order does not create life, but each life is created in order." Perhaps, we need to order something to achieve the new face that the Lord desires for our family, and the experience of the Spiritual Exercises is a great help for this.

Song 🎵🎵 (during the song, each participant puts a candle before St. Candida)



Mother Candida's Dream

"... I was very glad at the news you gave me about the Spiritual Exercises. May God give you the grace to be faithful to your holy resolutions and perseverance in the good and holy desires to progress in perfection. May it not be just desires but may you put them into practice by being faithful – very faithful – and constant in the observance of the holy Rules, taking great care to avoid the slightest fault as a means to avoid more serious ones." (Letter 190)

Biblical text (Col 3,23; Rom 14,8)

Whatever you do, do from the heart, as for the Lord and not for others, knowing that you will receive from the Lord the due payment of the inheritance; be slaves of the Lord Christ.
"For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."

A call today

Ordering one's life is a way of responding to the creative word of God - the same word that inspired Juana Josefa in Rosarillo. Order becomes the language of life. Order is a creative and free response to the God friend of life who has "made them all in wisdom" (Ps 104,24). We are called to put ourselves in order as a family, turn our hearts towards God the Father and place Jesus at the center to welcome the novelty that He gives us - the new face of our Being. The best way to organize life is to live in the dynamic of the Spiritual Exercises, through



discernment, daily examination, and other special moments of discernment - personal or communal.

Song 🎵🎵 **Con amor eterno, te amo** [With eternal love, I love you]... or another song

Meditation (Pause in silence or with instrumental music)

How do I live the experiences of the Spiritual Exercises that are offered to me? How do I bring them to my daily life? What means do I use to do this?

Sharing (be it by way of petition, thanksgiving, praise, a resolution to live...)

Final prayer

Through the intercession of Saint Cándida María de Jesús, we ask you, good Father, for the light of your Spirit to gestate the new face of the charism that we wish to offer to the world. May it be our gift in commemorating this 150th anniversary of the foundation. Strengthen in us the faith, hope and charity that animated Mother Candida. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen - Our Father ... Hail Mary ... St. Candida Ma. de Jesus, pray for us!



Song 🎵🎵

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PREPARING THE GIFT

- I remember that the S.E. [Spiritual Exercises] are the best thing that there is to order one's life. Encouragement to a member of the family of Mother Candida who I know is dedicated to offering the experience of the Exercises, with a message of reassurance on the occasion of this jubilee year.

- I'm interested in knowing something about the pastoral work of S.E., of another reality of the Congregation that I do not know...



4th day: Seeking the Will of God in everything



Setting - M. Candida's corner, with the phrases, the Virgin, candle.

❖ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Grace to ask for - That all our intentions and actions may be ordered, "to gestate the new face of the charism and offer it generously to the Father, the Church and our brothers and sisters."

Introduction

Inspired by Saint Ignatius, Mother Candida always made the search for God's will central in her life. Ignatius of Loyola never wanted to act from his point of view. This incessant search for the concrete will of God sums up the life and spirituality of Ignatius: seeking and finding God in everything. In Juana Josefa, as a woman who drinks from the same source, it is no different: What should I do? Where to? Who do I go with? Who am I going to send? It is a constant in her life. They lived, attentive to the Father's will, like Jesus: "My food is to do the will of the Father." (Jn 4:34)

Song 🎵🎵 Pescador de hombres [Fisher of men] (during the song, place a cross in the corner)



Mother Candida's Dream

"I thank you very much for your loving greetings, which I was most happy to receive in very good time. ... You are always present in my prayers and I entreat the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary Immaculate, our most Pure Mother, to give you the graces you need to fulfill always and in everything the will of God. (Letter 420) Yes, ...I desire ardently to be very holy, so I request you not to forget to pray for me fervently so I can be as God wants me to be.... Let us pray that God grant her a great deal of conformity to his most holy will. That's all." (L 12)

Biblical text (Mk 3,33-35)

Jesus said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

A call today

God's will is usually shown and accompanied by internal peace and joy, by consolation. It is also usually shown by the community, at times, by those people we never expected. Each step that is taken means trusting more and more in the Spirit. Often, we hear people say: "whatever God wants", but is it that we are conformed to God's will? Or is it just resignation,



conformism in the face of a situation? Perhaps, we come to seek and know the will of God, but... Do we fulfill it? As the family of Mother Candida, we cannot forget who we are. May the will of God be accomplished in us and through us.

Song 🎵🎵 **Amarte a ti, Señor en todas las cosas y a todas en ti, en todo amar y servir...**

Meditation *(Pause in silence or with instrumental music)*

Before the discouraging situations in which I find myself, do I question the desires and dreams of my heart? Am I able to dream as and with the community, or do I see only my personal interests?

Sharing *(be it by way of petition, thanksgiving, praise, a resolution to live...)*

Final prayer

Father of Goodness, through the intercession of St. Cándida María de Jesús, we ask you for the light of your Spirit to gestate the new face of the charism that we wish to offer today in the world in which we have to live. May it be our gift in commemorating this 150th anniversary of the foundation. Strengthen our faith, hope and charity to be as that which encouraged Mother. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



- Our Father... Hail Mary ... **St. Candida Maria de Jesus, pray for us!**

Song 🎵🎵 **Hágase tu voluntad... or another**

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PREPARING THE GIFT

Relish this phrase of Mother... "In my 41 years of religious life I do not remember a single moment that was not for God." Offer all the moments of the day to God, like St. Cándida María de Jesús.



5th day: Living the power of poverty



Setting – Mother Candida’s corner, with the phrases, the Virgin, candles, cross

❖ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Grace to ask for - That all our intentions and actions may be ordered, "to gestate the new face of the charism and offer it generously to the Father, the Church and our brothers and sisters."

Introduction

Evangelical poverty is one of the important keys to the being and acting of Jesus. He chose poverty for himself to enrich others. He became one of many, brother of all and especially of those who suffer the most. To resemble Him as a son resembles his Father is one of the insistent invitations and wishes of M. Candida expressed in the CFI, in her letters, in her spiritual notes and later in various GCs, in particular the 18th GC. It is also a call in today's world of so many inequalities within countries as well as among them.

Song 🎵🎵 **A tu modo- C. Fones sj....** or another

(while they sing, the participants place photos of realities of poverty, of people who help, who listen, etc.)

Mother Candida’s Dream

“Because of the power that poverty has to preserve religious life in its existence, defending it from many enemies, and because there is a constant temptation to destroy it in one way or another, it will be very important for the preservation and development of this whole body that any profit motive be far from us, and that material goods be limited to what is necessary to accomplish conveniently the aim of the Institute.” “It will also be of the highest importance to shun with great diligence ambition, which is the origin of all evils in any community...” (CFI 322 and 323)

Biblical text *Phil 2,6-11 and Mt 5,3*

“Christ, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness...”
“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

A call today

The consumer society in which we live immersed, lives in the logic of having, accumulating, and wants to impose it on us as the path to happiness. That, in addition, leads us to become dissatisfied people, and we well know that this is not an evangelical attitude. Letting ourselves be carried away by wealth leads us to compete and not to share the goods that have been given to us for all, in justice and in love for all humanity. For the Family of Saint Cándida, giving up things should be an expression of deep trust in God, and because in the poor we find Christ,



the love of God made man. And like Jesus, there to identify with the poor. Whoever discovers the radical poverty of the human being and accepts the poverty of his own heart receives multiple gifts from God. Being a person means being poor and destitute, limited.

Song 🎵🎵 Cuando el pobre nada tiene y aún reparte [When the poor have nothing and still shares] ... or Consagración - CD Alborada ... or another

Meditation *(Pause in silence or with instrumental music)*

Do I know how to be grateful for everything I receive as a gift? Do I share what I am and what I have? What do I make essential in my life that is not? Where do I set the threshold of what I have in order to begin acting like Jesus?

Sharing *(be it by way of petition, thanksgiving, praise, a resolution to live...)*

Final prayer

Through the intercession of St. Cándida María we ask you, Father, that we may grow and commit ourselves more in the experience of evangelical poverty, personally and communally. That under the action of the Holy Spirit we may allow ourselves to be reached by your Word, which is what transforms us and makes us like you. May our hearts open for love to use what is necessary and to share goods with so many people who today cry out for our solidarity. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



- Our Father... Hail Mary ... **St. Candida Ma. de Jesus, pray for us!**

Song 🎵🎵

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PREPARING THE GIFT

- *I let go of something that is dear to me and that I keep with a certain attachment though I really don't need it... I gladly share it with someone for whom it may be useful.*
- *Invite a marginalized or poor person to share the table with us: for coffee, snack, a meal...*



6th day: With a love that embraces everyone



Setting - corner of M. Candida, with the phrases, the Virgin, candles, cross, photos

❖ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Grace to ask for - That all our intentions and actions be ordered, "to gestate the new face of the charism and offer it generously to the Father, the Church and our brothers and sisters."

Introduction

For M. Candida, the Charism was beyond borders: "I would go to the ends of the earth in search of souls." The God who inhabited her connected her to a universal reality. Saint Ignatius has also said: "The more universal, the more divine!" and more decisive for the Ignatian sense of the universal was his personal encounter with a God who is Lord of all reality ... The dimension of universalism is not about the amount of services that are provided, nor the number of people who are attended to; the spiritual quality of the encounter is what decides on universality ... universality is when the interior of the heart continues to expand continuously.

Song 🎵 Alma misionera [Missionary soul]

(while singing, bring a symbol: Globe or world-map, a pair of shoes or sandals, etc.)



Mother Candida's Dream

"Towards the same purpose it is helpful that in the Congregation there should be no partiality whatsoever toward different nations or groups of persons, but in its stead a universal love which embraces in our Lord all parties, even though they are adversaries to one another." (CFI 328)" My dear daughters, Divine Providence has made available to us a foundation in a far-off land at the time we least expected. God in his high designs has looked after these daughters of His and led us in our work for his glory and the salvation of souls. I hope that all of you will be prompt to accomplish God's will wherever He wishes." (Wherever God May Call You, p.405 unabridged edition)

Biblical text (Mk 16:15, 20)

The risen Jesus appeared to the eleven and said to them: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." They went to preach everywhere, and the Lord assisted them and confirmed his word with the accompanying miracles.



A call today

Before the Rosarillo, Juana Josefa recognizes herself as the daughter who wants to resemble her father, and she places herself at the service of this Father who always works. And she feels in herself the same Spirit of Christ that urges to announce the Paternal Love of God. Today, we are on four continents and we can be sure that when we get there physically, Mother Candida is already there, because she has wanted to share that path to save all souls. And in the prayer of all of us, from where we are, there is room for the world and its complexity. Everything is an opportunity for a Contemplation of the Incarnation with the Holy Trinity. (S.E.106)

Song 🎵🎵

Meditation (Pause in silence or with instrumental music)

Am I affected by what is happening in other parts of the world? Am I interested in or am I indifferent to others who are not from my circle of relationships? Do I vibrate with this universal dimension of our Charism? How far does my horizon go?

Sharing (be it by way of petition, thanksgiving, praise, a resolution to live...)

M. Candida used to say: "I would go to the ends of the earth in search of souls", and **I can say:**

"I would go to..."

Final prayer

Good Father, "We are daughters and sons of the same earth", thank you for entrusting us with the task of fraternizing with the creatures in the universe. Through the intercession of St. Cándida María, give us sensitivity to contemplate your work and help us to live in communion with everyone regardless of race, color, religion, language, sex. And that we may be able to maintain the missionary flame that you lit in this family of Cándida María. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.



-- Our Father - Hail Mary – Glory be to the Father --- **St. Cándida María, pray for us!**

Song 🎵🎵 Cándida María, tú eres del Señor... Cándida María, tú eres del Señor, el mundo yo andaría...

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PREPARING THE GIFT

Seek to know more about the realities where the Congregation is present; get to know more lay people who share this beautiful charism.



7th day: Seeking the glory of God and the good of our neighbors



Setting - M. Cándida's corner, with the phrases, the Virgin, candles, photos ...

❖ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Grace to ask for - That all our intentions and actions be ordered, "to gestate the new face of the charism and offer it generously to the Father, the Church and our brothers and sisters."

Introduction

"It will be helpful that the Congregation persevere in its original vocation, by seeking with all sincerity nothing else than the aid of souls. For through this, God our Lord will carry forward what He has begun, and the witness arising from the genuineness of the good works will increase the benevolent desire of others to avail themselves of the Congregation's aid and to help the Congregation for the aim it seeks, the glory and service of God our Father." (CFI 329). Saint Ignatius left us as his motto: "All for the greater glory of God." He learned that "to give glory" is to let someone be great; it is having the ability to perceive what has a value and manifest it before others; He who gives glory has a great heart, does not feel threatened by the valuation of others. If he can understand that the Glory of God and the good of our neighbors are two sides of the same coin.

Song 🎵 Amarte a Ti, Señor, en todas las cosas y a todas en Ti. En todo amar y servir, en todo amar y servir.

Mother Candida's Dream

"I thank you very much, my daughter, for all your prayers to God our Lord for me, for the Congregation, for its approval and for its propagation to the whole world in order to promote the good of souls. May God grant that all that you prayed for be accomplished and may He help us to be very holy. Amen... and may all be healthy to work for the glory of God and the salvation of souls that is badly needed... May all the glory be to God and may He be praised for ever. (Letter 147)

Biblical text (Mt 6,1-2 and / or Jn 17, 1b-5)

"Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others."



A call today

It is not unusual that, in the name of good, we are provoked to seek recognition for what we do, for the awarded theses. Saint Irenaeus says that, "The glory of God is man fully alive." In other words, for the glory of God to be manifested it is necessary to take care of the human being, that our service is to the Good of our neighbors. A good that goes beyond material aid; a good that leads others to know God. Not centered on ourselves at all. And, all those who interact with us would have to be infected by that Passion-Utopia that gives meaning to this work conceived before the Rosarillo.

Song 🎵🎵 Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

Meditation (*Pause in silence or with instrumental music*)

Do I take pleasure in the recognition that others receive? Do I perceive the value of a sister, a member of the family of M. Candida and manifest it in public? How do I receive the appreciation and praise that they give me? What can we do to make our service for the Good of our neighbors more effective?

Sharing (*Write on paper something that attracts you about the person of St. Cándida... place it before the image with a prayer of praise to our saint, appreciating her person*)



Final prayer



Just and Holy Father, you who give a big heart to those you choose that they may recognize your beauty and your goodness, we ask that St. Candida, our friend, may help us to open our hearts so that your love may engulf us so that we may better fulfill your will in our Congregation. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

- Our Father - Hail Mary – Glory be to the Father --- **St. Candida Maria, pray for us!**

Song 🎵🎵 **Cándida María, tú eres del Señor...** Cándida María, tú eres del Señor, el mundo yo andaría...

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PREPARING THE GIFT

During the day's tasks, exercise awareness of the friendly presence of Saint Cándida who invites me to seek the glory of God and the good of my brothers and sisters.



8th day: Being contemplative persons in action



Setting – corner of M. Cándida, with the phrases, the Virgin, candles, photos ...

❖ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Grace to ask for - That all our intentions and actions be ordered, "to gestate the new face of the charism and offer it generously to the Father, to the Church and to our brothers and sisters."

Introduction

St. Cándida contemplating the Trinitarian family and the Holy Family in the Rosarillo, understands that she wants to be part of that family, resembling the Father. As she was contemplating that unified and unifying family, her active action in the saving work of the Trinity, as Daughter, arose; and that same action also as a sister of every living being, together with the family of Nazareth. Contemplation is not separated from Action. That is, a contemplated Action and an incarnate Contemplation. To be contemplative in action is to see God who moves me to action, and who acts through me; it is seeing God in the one who receives, it is action by which I donate myself.

Song 🎵🎵 Cándida María, tú eres del Señor...

Mother Candida's Dream

"I did pray, and I do pray, to Our Lady of Fair Love to reward you by giving you a share in her virtues... imitating Jesus as our best model; ... teaching mainly through our example, as He did. Be humble and obedient as He was and submit yourself always and in everything to obedience. Let there be charity among all of you through mutual help and close union with God. May all your actions be done only for God, considering him present, for He really is..." [Letter 470] ... they ought to strive to love Jesus, God made man for love of us, with all their being, seeking to resemble Him in all things, as a son resembles his father..." (CFI 136)

Biblical text (Jn 5,19-20)

Jesus answered and said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, a son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees his father doing; for what he does, his son will do also. For the Father loves his Son and shows him everything that he himself does, and he will show him greater works than these, so that you may be amazed."

A call today

Contemplation-Action is a double dimension founded on vital unity and reveals the glory of God in the different tasks, functions, and positions that we occupy in the family of Mother Candida. As an apostolic family, contemplation and action must go their way together. Prayer directs action and our work allows prayer to grow. Contemplation leads us to "seek and find



God in everything”, and to understand what our personal and community contribution should be to the Body of Christ. And, to discover how the NEW FACE of the Charism should be TODAY.

Song 🎵🎵

Meditation *(Pause in silence or with instrumental music)*

Have I already discovered how I should live a life worth living? Where is my Rosarillo? What is my Rosarillo? What about the reality in which I live, does it question me? What does it move me to? Do my actions spring from contemplation or from impulse? Do I bring to prayer what I have experienced in the tasks that I carry out?

Sharing (be it by way of petition, thanksgiving, praise, a resolution to live ...)

Final prayer

God, Father of Goodness, through the intercession of St. Cándida María de Jesús, we ask you for light to gestate the new face of the charism that we wish to offer to the world today. That it may be our gift as we commemorate this 150th founding anniversary. Strengthen our faith, hope and charity, which encouraged Mother Candida María de Jesús. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



- Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father... **St. Candida Maria de Jesus, pray for us!**

Song 🎵🎵 Tomad, Señor, y recibid [Take, Lord, and receive]

+++++ IHS +++++

PREPARING THE GIFT

- Prayer to “reap love” and offer;
- Review the novena: contemplate the corner of M. Cándida, the themes, everything that we lived these past days...
- Take time to chat, listen to a person on the street or a marginalized person... contemplating in him the image of the Creator, trying to serve him in his needs and learning from his experience.



9th day: “To love and serve” in all things



Setting - Corner of M. Cándida, with the phrases, the Virgin, candles, photos ...

❖ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Grace to ask for - That all our intentions and actions be ordered, "to gestate the new face of the charism and offer it generously to the Father, the Church and our brothers and sisters."

Introduction

"To love and serve in all things" is an expression of the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius, framed in the discovery of what we received from God. Recognizing so many gifts, we are invited to "love and serve God in all things." It is the fruit of gratitude that allows me to be a free person. Bearing in mind that the first who is free is God with each one of us. He gives us life, people who see me as better than I am, the whole of reality, beauty, good, the truth that my eyes see and my reason recognizes... The same look with which Jesus looked at sinners of his time reproduced today, allows us to discover in every mistake an opportunity to love and serve everyone in everything. He who corrects, loves. Whoever embraces wounded humanity serves.

Song 🎵 Amarte a ti Señor en todas las cosas... or another song

Mother Candida's Dream

The texts of the CFI are notable, as are her letters in which appear gratitude, service to others, love of God and people through apostolic service. "... they should exercise themselves in seeking God our Lord in all things ... to turn their love upon the Creator of them, by loving Him in all creatures and all of them in Him, in conformity with His holy and divine will." (CFI 62) Beyond the action, Mother Candida points out the mystical dimension of service: "Let us bless the Lord who gives relief at all times and let us use our time to love and serve His Divine Majesty. He deserves to be loved, but He is forgotten by men." (*Letter 141*)

Biblical text (Mt 20,28; Lk 22,27)

"Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." "For who is greater: the one seated at table or the one who serves? Is it not the one seated at table? I am among you as the one who serves. "

A call today

Love is not only grace, gift, but also an art. It needs daily effort, care, patience and renunciation. That gratuitous love given from above is not a unilateral event, that is why Ignatius says: Love consists in a mutual communication between the two persons. (S.E. 231) There is love only when there is a true exchange of give and take. "All who serve, live." Serving



means living. Serving is not just trying to sow and harvest, it is also waiting. There is a contemplative service.

Meditation (Pause in silence or with instrumental music)

Do I make an effort to get out of my self-love, self-will and self-interests? [from SpEx 189] Does loving and serving drive me in my daily life? How do I express it? What helps me from the experience of loving and serving that I grasp in other people that inspire me and stimulate my life of following Jesus?

Sharing (be it by way of petition, thanksgiving, praise, a resolution to live ...)

On a card with a drawing of a hand and a heart, each one writes what his wish is in order to Love and Serve more in this jubilee year, and then puts it in the Mother's corner.

Final prayer

Good Father, through the intercession of St. Cándida María de Jesús we ask you for the light to gestate the new face of the charism that we wish to offer in the world today. That, in commemorating this 150th anniversary of the foundation, the feast of our Holy Foundress, may we each be that gift that shows the new face of the charism that the world needs today. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



- Our Father... Hail Mary ... **St. Candida Maria of Jesus, pray for us!**

Song 🎵🎵 Amar es servir

+++++ IHS +++++

PREPARING THE GIFT

"He who does not live to serve, does not serve to live."

Take a while to pray under the gaze of St. Cándida asking her: When and how do I not collaborate for the well-being of the FI Family? And ask for help to offer a gift that comes from the heart in this special year.



HAPPY FEAST OF SAINT CÁNDIDA



Prayer for the 150th anniversary of the Foundation of the Congregation of the Hijas de Jesus

Father of immense goodness,
we thank you
for these 150 years of the Hijas de Jesus
in the Church and in the world ...

They have been 150 years ...
educating the whole person,
evangelizing, giving the Spiritual Exercises,
accompanying young people,
being close to those who suffer the most,
serving the poor,
growing and sharing charism
with many lay people,
making us "family" of M. Candida.

Help us to be a congregation of union,
of love, of true and fruitful apostolate,
having Mary Immaculate as the star of our ways.

Jesus, we ask you to help us
to contemplate reality
in order to acknowledge so much Good received
and "to attain Love",
in order to continue becoming like You
and to discover the new face of the charism
to share it with many.

May M. Candida
stimulate us to live belonging,
familiarity with God,
universal brotherhood,
availability to serve where it is most needed
and may she fuel the desire to "go anywhere in the world."

St. Cándida María de Jesús, pray for us.